



Dr. John M. Dobson

FEB 23, 1935 - MAY 25, 2021



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Dr. John McIllwain Dobson, 86, of Memphis, passed away on Tuesday, May 25, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence "Jimmy" and Emma Lou Dobson.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Dobson, three children, Kim Dobson (Rick Olson), John Dobson Jr. (Carolina), Suzy Dobson Bell, grandchildren, Taylor Dobson Bailey (John Patrick), Fabiana Palet, McKenzie Dobson, a sister, Emily Dobson Childress and her husband Harold and several nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Dr. Dobson graduated from Dobyons-Bennett Highschool followed by Vanderbilt University where he was an active member of Sigma Nu Fraternity and University of Tennessee Medical School in 1960 where he was an active member of Phi Rho. During his last year at medical school, he contracted TB and spent that year at the hospital. While there, he met a Radiologist from Heacock-King which became MRPC who encouraged him to do a residency. He followed the advice and was offered a position at Memphis Radiological Professional Corporation. At that time in 1965 there were five members and when Dr. Dobson retired in 1998 there were forty-eight Radiologists. During that time, he opened the Departments of Radiology at Methodist South, Methodist Germantown and Methodist North. In his tenure with Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare, Dr. Dobson was awarded several leadership positions to name a few - Past President of MRPC and Chief of Staff as well as serving on several boards. In 1997, he was one of the recipients of the Methodist Healthcare Foundation Living Awards which honored him as a "Fellow". He was a member of Central Church.

Dr. Dobson was generous to all his family, friends, acquaintances and always treating everyone with dignity and respect. He was fair in his judgments being a cohesive part of hospital management, evaluating patient needs, administrative goals, and



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employee performance. He was a dignified and humble leader who was admired by all. He was always considerate of others often saying, "No matter how thin you slice the bread; the slice always has two sides". We know his faith in Jesus Christ has led him to be with the greatest physician of all.

His extra-curricular activities included but not limited to; hunting, fishing across the US, boating, scuba diving, flying his airplane and learning to weld at Moore Tech (William R. Moore College) with friends. Often, he would fly to the outside surrounding areas that had smaller hospitals that needed x-rays to be read.

The family will receive relatives and friends on Friday, May 28 from 5:00 pm until 7:00 pm at Memorial Park Funeral Home, 5668 Poplar Avenue in Memphis. There will be a graveside service on Sunday, May 30 at 1:00 at Oak Hill Memorial Park, 800 Truxton Drive in Kingsport.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to be made to the Church Health Center, 1350 Concourse Ave Suite 142, Memphis, TN 38104. The family express sincere gratitude to Crossroads Hospice and Palliative Care.



Tribute Wall

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Melissa Buring Mckessy posted:

Carolyn, Suzy, Johnny, and Kim, I was so sorry to hear about Dr. D. He was such a special person and was loved by all! What a wonderful life he had, but he will forever be the one I hear saying, "Who wants a ride in the rumble seat?" Please, know that he was a wonderful man and had full awesome life. Warm regards, Melissa Buring McKessy

May 28 at 9:41 AM



Sherri Buring Steiger posted:

Carolyn I am so sorry about Dr. John's passing. I feel like such a better and blessed person in having gotten to know him. Loved seeing ya'll he always had a joke or story and was so dear and sincere. May God grant you and your entire family peace knowing he is with his Lord and Savior out of pain. Much love and sympathy Sherri Buring Steiger

May 27 at 3:12 PM



Jonette Rukstad lit a candle in honor of John.

I have no words, but hope it helps some to know that so many loved and respected John. I am a better person for knowing him. Keeping all in my heart, thoughts, and prayers.

May 27 at 10:27 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring John by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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